

School HIV Policy

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Coordinated School Health

Why?

- Appropriately manage an outbreak
- Support/protect affected individuals
- Prepare for and alleviate fear
- Eliminate/Reduce risk behaviors
- Avoid legal and public relations issues

"I want them to tell me that they won't tell anyone else, that the child would be kept safe, and...that they already use universal precautions."

-Guardian of a high school student with HIV

What If?

- HIV+ student discloses she is having sex with another student
- A staff member's HIV status is being talked about in the staff lounge
- A student pokes several other children with a needle on the playground

What do we do?

- Convene committee
- Gather Info – Build Awareness/Support
- Review sample policies
- Draft the policy
- Adopt the policy
- Implement the policy
- Evaluate the policy

Committee Composition

- Parents, Youth, Community Members
- HIV Affected Individuals
- Health Personnel (Mental/Physical/Emotional)
- School Staff
- School Administration
- Crisis Management Specialist

Information Gathering

- State/federal laws about HIV in school settings
- IDEA, ADA, Civil Rights Act, Section 504
- OSHA workplace protection standards
- HIPPA & FERPA laws
- Disease incidence in your state/community
- Model policies

Policy Should Include

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|--------------------|----------------------|
| Preamble | Athletics |
| School Attendance | Prevention Education |
| Employment | Related Services |
| Privacy | Staff Development |
| Infection Control | General Provisions |
| Non-Discrimination | Disease Reporting |
| Health Services | Dissemination Plan |

Evaluation

- Self-Evaluation
- Staff, Parent & Community Feedback
- Inservice evaluations

But don't forget...

"The first thing you need to know about me is that I'm a normal kid. Some people forget that."

-Child with HIV

Resources

- Someone at School has AIDS
 - Nat. Assoc. of State Boards of Education
- School HIV/AIDS Policy Tool Kit
 - Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction
- School Health Policy Development: Basic First Steps
 - UNESCO

Other Resources

- Sample Comprehensive HIV Policy for Schools: Pre-K-12
 - Vermont Dept. of Education
- Components of a Strong School HIV Policy
 - North Carolina Healthy Schools